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UM rises to the occasion

Varsity heads QS ranking in Malaysia

Malaysian institutions in the QS University Rankings: Asia				
Universities	Year ranked			
	2012	2011	2010	2009
Universiti Malaya	35	39	42	39
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	58	53	58	51
Universiti Putra Malaysia	76	57	77	90
Universiti Sains Malaysia	-	-	69	69
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	74	76	82	82

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PETALING JAYA: Over the past four years, several Malaysian public universities have moved up the ranks in the *QS University Rankings: Asia*.

This year, Universiti Malaya (UM) continues to lead 14 Malaysian universities which have been listed in the top 300 of the annual rankings.

The regional rankings by QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd, which also compiles the annual QS World University Rankings, has been listing top Asian universities since 2009.

UM moved up four places from last year, while Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) ranked two places higher.

The other institutions on the list are Universiti Putra Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Multimedia University, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) and Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the focus was to enhance the competitiveness of Malaysian universities as a whole.

"Ranking is important and we recognise it," he said.

Mohamed Khaled explained that "the busi-

ness of education in this country and other developing countries goes beyond ranking".

UM vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Ghauth Jasmon believed the university's improvement was due to higher key performance indicators set on research and publications among its staff.

QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd Intelligence Unit head Ben Sowter said the reputation of Malaysian universities significantly outweighed their measurable research performance.

"There are small indications that productivity is improving, but quality needs to follow. So a stronger focus on research productions and publications in international journals remains a worthwhile area to improve on," he said.

Uniten vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mashkuri Yaacob believed the university's five-year strategic plan has helped to achieve its targets.

Utar vice-president (Internationalisation and Academic Development) Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat said the university was thankful for the progress made so far.

Limkokwing University of Creative Technology president Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing said being listed in the ranking was encouraging as it was a young university with an unconventional approach.

For full results, log on to www.topuniversities.com.